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YAHOO! INC. C/O GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP			EXAMINER	
MET LIFE BUILDING			TIMBLIN, ROBERT M	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/718,869	Applicant(s) SOMAROO ET AL.
	Examiner ROBERT TIMBLIN	Art Unit 2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(o).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2009.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08e)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action corresponds to application 10/718,869 filed 11/20/2003.

Response to Amendment

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1 and 13-15 have been amended.

35 USC § 101 Remarks

The 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection to claims 1-13 has been removed in light of Applicant's amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-2, 6-8, and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being taught by Joao U.S. Patent 6,662,194 B1. In the following passages and figures, Joao teaches:

With respect to claim 1, A method comprising:

receiving inquiry data (col. 22 line 13-19 and col. 28 line 52-65; i.e. information such as resume and/or any other pertinent data of an individual interested in a job that is obtained and

stored in database 10H) related to an inquiry (i.e. job search, abstract. Also see col. 22 line 54-58; i.e. the individual decides whether he or she wishes to apply for any of the reported jobs describes at least an inquiry for a job found in a listing service) of a user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual, prospective employee, applicant etc...) with a listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100; i.e. employers posting or listing jobs with apparatus 100 describes a listing service) about a listing (e.g. a job) posted by an entity (col. 5 line 4; e.g. hiring entities) other than the user (col. 4 line 35-47; i.e. an individual wishing to apply for the job);

creating, by a processor (10), a user's lead (col. 5 line 20-23, col. 6 line 35-40, i.e. an individual's offer to an employer, col. 22 line 57-58 and drawing reference 215; an individual's applying for a job) in response to the user's inquiry (col. 22 line 13-19 and figure 5A; i.e. information such as resume and/or any other pertinent data that is obtained and stored in database 10H), the user's lead (col. 6 line 35-36; e.g. offers that are tracked by the individuals) is to be pursued (col. 6 line 36; tracking all offers and col. 23 line 65-66) by the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual, prospective employee, applicant etc...) that makes the inquiry (col. 22 line 54-58; i.e. a decision to apply for a job) with the listing service (100), the user's lead being (col. 5 line 20-23, col. 6 line 35-40, i.e. an individual's offer to an employer) created using the received inquiry data (abstract);

storing the user's lead (figure 5A) as a lead record (col. 6 line 35-41 and col. 39 line 61-67); i.e. all offers and/or rejections involving any and all jobs, employment positions, are recorded) in a database (10H);

creating, by the processor (10), an action record (col. 24 lines 41-44) using information from the user's lead (col. 24 lines 39-49; e.g. the employer from the lead) each time an action to be taken in furtherance (col. 24 lines 44-46; e.g. offers and counteroffers are actions of an individual to be taken to further their lead) of the user's lead is identified (col. 24 lines 41-49; i.e. Joao teaches recording information such as whether a deal has been reached and information about offers and counteroffers);

storing the action record (col. 22 line 63-66) in the database (col. 23 line 26-34 and drawing reference 10H), the lead (col. 23 line 26-34) and action records (col. 22 line 63-66) comprising information to provide the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual) with a status (col. 4 line 57-60 and col. 6 line 35-37) of the user's lead (figure 5A); and

communicating a user interface (drawing reference 20E) accessible by the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual and col. 14 line 59-60; i.e. an individual accessing their data) that comprises information from the lead (col. 14 line 59-60; i.e. access to the individual's data in database 10H) and action records (col. 22 line 63-66) and information related to the user's lead (figure 5A) received from one or more ancillary services (col. 22 line 51-53, col. 23 line 5-13).

With respect to claim 2, the method of claim 1, wherein the listing service is a web site having job postings listed thereon (col. 5 line 4-5, col. 29 line 9).

With respect to claim 6, the method of claim 1, wherein the listing service is a web site having auction items listed thereon (col. 32 line 37).

With respect to claim 7, the method of claim 1, wherein the ancillary service is electronic mail (col. 4 line 66).

With respect to claim 8, the method of claim 1, wherein the ancillary service is an advertising system (col. 6 line 29).

With respect to claim 10, the method of claim 1, wherein the ancillary service is a news system (col. 29 line 10-15).

With respect to claim 11, the method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving inquiry data related to an initial inquiry of the user with the listing service further comprises:

receiving inquiry data (abstract) from an application operative on a computing device (figure 1) of the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual).

With respect to claim 12, the method of claim 1, wherein the steps of receiving inquiry data related to an inquiry of a user with a listing service and creating a user's lead to be pursued by the user that makes the inquiry with the listing service, the user's lead being created using the received inquiry data further comprise:

receiving inquiry data (abstract) from a user computer at the listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100);

capturing the inquiry data (abstract) at the listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100);

at the listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100);

making a remote procedure call to access an application programming interface from the listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100) to a tracking system (col. 6 line 36-36) operative with programming to create the user's lead record (col. 6 line 35-41 and col. 39 line 61-67); i.e. all offers and/or rejections involving any and all jobs, employment positions, are recorded);

transmitting the inquiry data to the tracking system from the listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100); and

creating a user's lead (col. 4 line 57-60, col. 5 line 20-23, col. 6 line 35-40, i.e. an individual's offer to an employer) to be pursued (col. 23 line 53-67, col. 24 line 1-7) by the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual) that makes the inquiry with the listing service, the user's lead being created using the received inquiry data (abstract);

With respect to claim 13, A method comprising:

receiving inquiry data (abstract) from a user computer (drawing reference 20) at a listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100) about a listing (e.g. a job) posted by an entity (col. 5 line 4; e.g. hiring entities) other than the user;

capturing the inquiry data (abstract) at the listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100);

transmitting the inquiry data to the tracking system from the listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100);

creating, by a processor (10) a user's lead (col. 4 line 57-60, col. 5 line 20-23, col. 6 line 35-40, i.e. an individual's offer to an employer) in response to the user's inquiry (col. 22 line 13-19 and figure 5A; i.e. information such as resume and/or any other pertinent data that is obtained and stored in database 10H), the user's lead is to be pursued (col. 23 line 53-67, col. 24 line 1-7) by the user that makes the inquiry (col. 22 line 54-58; i.e. a decision to apply for a job) with the listing service (100), the user's lead being (col. 5 line 20-23, col. 6 line 35-40, i.e. an individual's offer to an employer) created using the received inquiry data (abstract);

storing the user's lead as a lead record (col. 6 line 42-44) in a database (drawing reference 10H);

creating, by the processor (10), an action record (col. 24 lines 41-43) using information from the user's lead (col. 24 lines 39-49) each time an action to be taken in furtherance (col. 24 lines 44-46; e.g. offers and counteroffers are actions of an individual to be taken to further their lead) of the user's lead is identified (col. 24 lines 41-49; i.e. Joao teaches recording information such as whether a deal has been reached and information about offers and counteroffers);

storing the action record (col. 22 line 63-66) in the database (col. 23 line 26-34 and drawing reference 10H), the lead (col. 23 line 26-34) and action records (col. 22 line 63-66) comprising information to provide the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual) with a status (col. 4 line 57-60) of the user's lead (figure 5A); and

communicating a user interface (drawing reference 20E) accessible by the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual and col. 14 line 59-60; i.e. an individual accessing their data) that comprises information from the lead (col. 14 line 59-60; i.e. access to the individual's data in

database 10H) and action records (col. 22 line 63-66) and information related to the user's lead (figure 5A) received from one or more ancillary services (col. 22 line 51-53, col. 23 line 5-13).

With respect to claim 14, A system comprising:

a server system (drawing reference 10) accessible via one or more networks (figure 1) by one or more computing devices (drawing references 20, 30) of a user (drawing reference 20) and capable of communicating with one or more listing services (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100) via one or more of the networks (figure 1);

a database system (drawing reference 10H) in communication with the server system (figures 12-4);

the server system (drawing reference 10) comprising programming (col. 6 line 14-16) to receive data from the listing services (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100) related to an inquiry by a user about a listing (e.g. a job) posted with a listing service (100) by an entity (col. 5 line 4; e.g. hiring entities) other than the user (col. 4 line 35-47; i.e. an individual wishing to apply for the job), generate a user's lead (col. 5 line 20-23, col. 6 line 35-40, i.e. an individual's offer to an employer and col. 22 line 57-58; an individual's applying for a job) in response to the user's inquiry (col. 22 line 13-19 and figure 5A; i.e. information such as resume and/or any other pertinent data that is obtained and stored in database 10H), the user's lead (offer) is to be pursued by the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual, prospective employee, applicant etc...) that makes the inquiry (col. 22 line 54-58; i.e. a decision to apply for a job) with the listing service (100), the user's lead being (col. 5 line 20-

23, col. 6 line 35-40, i.e. an individual's offer to an employer) created using the data received from the listing services, and store the user's lead as a lead record in the database system;

wherein the server system further includes programming (col. 6 line 14-16) to communicate a user interface (drawing reference 20E) accessible to the user that comprises a summary (col. 24 line 22-49; i.e. Joao discloses recording information up to a point of interaction between an individual and employer) of the user's (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual) lead (col. 23 line 26-34);

wherein the server system further comprises programming (col. 6 line 14-16) to interact with at least one ancillary service system (col. 22 line 51-53, col. 23 line 5-13) and provide information generated or received into the ancillary service system (col. 22 line 51-53, col. 23 line 5-13) to the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual); and

wherein the server system further includes programming (col. 6 line 14-16) to receive action data (col. 24 lines 36-38) corresponding to an action to be taken in furtherance of the user's lead (col. 24 lines 44-46; e.g. offers and counteroffers are actions of an individual to be taken to further their lead), using information from the lead record (col. 24 lines 39-49), store the action record (col. 24 line 41) in the database system (10H), and provide information about the action record to the user (col. 24 line 50-51), the lead (col. 23 line 26-34) and action records (col. 22 line 63-66) comprising information to provide the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual) with a status (col. 4 line 57-60) of the user's lead (figure 5A).

With respect to claim 15, A tracking system comprising:

a server-side component (drawing reference 10) operative on a server system (drawing reference 100) capable of communication with a network (figure 1), the server-side component (drawing reference 10) comprising programming to:

receive inquiry data (abstract) related to an inquiry (i.e. job search, abstract) of a user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual) with a listing service (col. 12 line 14-15, col. 30 line 38-47 and drawing reference 100) about a listing (e.g. a job) posted by an entity (col. 5 line 4; e.g. hiring entities) other than the user (col. 4 line 35-47; i.e. an individual wishing to apply for the job);

create a user's lead (col. 5 line 20-23, col. 6 line 35-40, i.e. an individual's offer to an employer and col. 22 line 57-58; an individual's applying for a job) in response to the user's inquiry (col. 22 line 13-19 and figure 5A; i.e. information such as resume and/or any other pertinent data that is obtained and stored in database 10H), the user's lead is to be pursued (col. 6 line 36; tracking all offers and col. 23 line 65-66) by the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual, prospective employee, applicant etc...) that makes the inquiry (col. 22 line 54-58; i.e. a decision to apply for a job) with the listing service (100), the user's lead being (col. 5 line 20-23, col. 6 line 35-40, i.e. an individual's offer to an employer) created using the received inquiry data (abstract);

communicate a user interface (drawing reference 20E) accessible to the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual) that comprises a summary (col. 24 line 22-49; i.e. Joao discloses recording information up to a point of interaction between an individual and employer) of the user's (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual) lead (col. 23 line 26-34);

interact with at least one ancillary service system (col. 22 line 51-53, col. 23 line 5-13) and provide information generated or received into the ancillary service system (col. 22 line 51-53, col. 23 line 5-13) to the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual); and

generate and store an action record (drawing reference 220) each time an action to be taken in further (col. 24 lines 44-46; e.g. offers and counteroffers are actions of an individual to be taken to further their lead) of user's lead is identified (col. 24 lines 41-49; i.e. Joao teaches recording information such as whether a deal has been reached and information about offers and counteroffers) using information from the lead record (col. 24 lines 39-49; e.g. the employer from the lead), and provide information from the action record to the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual), the lead (col. 14 line 59-60; i.e. access to the individual's data in database 10H) and action records (col. 22 line 63-66) comprising information to provide the user (col. 11 line 45-53, i.e. an individual) with a status (col. 4 line 57-60 notice of job availability and col. 35 line 15-20; i.e. notifying the individual of acceptance or rejection of an offer) of the user's lead (figure 5A).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joao as applied to claims 1-2, 6-8, and 10-15 in view of Rinebold et al. ('Rinebold' hereafter) U.S. Patent 6,968,513 B1.

With respect to claim 3, Joao fails to explicitly teach wherein the listing service is a web site having personal ads listed thereon.

Rinebold, however, teaches wherein the listing service is a web site having personal ads listed thereon (abstract, figure 10A-10C, i.e. self postings) to enable on-line users to view business listings.

In the same field of endeavor, (i.e. listing services), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because Rinebold would have given Joao an effective way to target users of the system for the benefit of an efficient job search. Rinebold discloses geographic targeting (col. 3 line 62-67) of users for organizing internet information based on geographic categories (col. 5 line 1-5), which Joao could have used to help a user efficiently locate a job (Joao at col. 4 line 42).

Similar claims 4-5 are rejected for the same rationale as the rejection of claim 3, as the web page of (10A) is a site having real estate postings and automobile postings. See also the abstract where Rinebold further teaches a website having classified listings.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joao as applied to claims 1-2, 6-8, and 10-15 in view of Wilkins et al. ('Wilkins' hereafter) U.S. Patent 6,868,389 B1.

With respect to claim 9 Joao fails to explicitly teach wherein the ancillary service is a road navigation system.

Wilkins, however, teaches wherein the ancillary service is a road navigation system (col. 10, line 56-65) to locate a listing.

In the same field of endeavor, (i.e. listing services), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because Wilkins would have given a user of Joao's system an efficient way to better locate a listing (Joao at col. 4 line 42).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/9/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues on page 8 of the response that Joao does disclose creating an action record using information from the user's lead each time an action to be taken in furtherance of the user's lead is identified. In light of the new interpretation given to Joao necessitated by the amendments, Examiner respectfully disagrees.

In particular, and as cited above, Joao is seen to monitor and record an individual's interaction with an employer (col. 24 lines 36-49). An example of the information that Joao

records may comprise of deal acceptances, offers, and counteroffers. Examiner submits that because in Joao, a user may submit an offer as a lead and the system may further record a counteroffer(s) to the lead, that Joao teaches the creation of an action record (i.e. a record of the counteroffer). In other words, a submission of a counteroffer may be seen as an action (that is recorded, or stored by the system) to be taken in furtherance of the offer (lead). Put another way, a counteroffer which is an action to be taken in furtherance of an individual's lead (i.e. to further an offer of employment to reach a deal or rejection) is stored under Joao's monitoring system. Examiner further submits that the action record is created at least using the employer (i.e. information from the user's lead).

Applicant further argues (page 8 of the response) that "Joao's messages, even if containing a request for additional information from an individual, are not action records that are stored in a database and can be edited by a user." Examiner submits this point to be moot in view of the new ground of rejection; however Examiner further submits that Applicant argues that which is not claimed by arguing Joao's lack of editing action records. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "...action records that are stored in a database and can be edited by a user") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Applicant also argues on page 9 of the response that Joao does not disclose "communicating a user interface accessible by the user that comprises information from the lead and action records and information related to the user's lead received from one or more ancillary services as claimed in independent claim 1". Examiner respectfully disagrees given the following:

Examiner submits that because Joao stores information of the lead records (e.g. offers to an employer, col. 6 line 35-39) and action records (e.g. counteroffers, col. 24 lines 36-49) and that this information may be of reference to a user (e.g. col. 24 lines 50-51), that Joao teaches communicating a user interface accessible by the user that comprises information from the lead and action records. Therefore, Joao teaches communicating to the user information from the lead and action records.

Examiner further submits that Joao teaches communicating a user interface accessible by the user that comprises information related to the user's lead received from one or more ancillary services. That is, Joao teaches e-mail correspondences between respective parties (e.g. col. 23 lines 5-13) that relate to an individual's offer. As such, Joao's e-mail service represents an ancillary electronic mail service (see present claim 7 wherein an electronic mail service is an ancillary service) to relate information relating to a lead between an individual and employer. Because Joao teaches communicating information related to the user's lead via an ancillary service such as an electronic mail service, Joao is seen to disclose this argued limitation.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Timblin whose telephone number is 571-272-5627. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ROBERT TIMBLIN/

Examiner, Art Unit 2167

/John R. Cottingham/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167